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Subject Carlyle Group wrong for Verizon Hawaii!

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

465 South King Street, Room 103
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear HPUC:

I am opposed to allowing the Carlyle Group to acquire Verizon Hawaii.

It seems no coincidence that the Federal Communications Commission approved the acquisition, given the fact that the chairman of Carlyle's global telecommunications and media investing strategy group is former FCC chairman William E. Kennard....ah, the good ol' revolving door!

Be that as it may, the real question is, what would lead you Public Utilities Commissioners to believe that this would be good for Hawaii when the Carlyle Group is among the worst offenders when it comes to moving their companies offshore to avoid paying U.S. Taxes? Won't they have the same philosophy when it comes to paying taxes or providing stable employment and benefits here in Hawaii?

"The Carlyle Group, a private global investment firm based in Washington, D.C. Carlyle, oversees \$16 billion in investments for more than 550 individuals and institutions from fifty-five countries. In August 2001, the firm filed paperwork with the Securities and Exchange Commission that revealed an interest in U.S. Technologies Inc., a venture capital firm based in Washington, D.C. Carlyle's stake in U.S. Technologies was held by eight limited partnerships based in the Cayman Islands, all of which listed their "principal business office" as c/o The Carlyle Group at its Washington headquarters, six blocks from the White House." (The Buying of the President 2004, by Charles Lewis)

I am also trouble by the fact that The Carlyle Group is documented to be deeply intertwined with the Saudi elite, in particular the Bin Ladens:

"The Wall Street Journal [not exactly a bastion of liberal bias] reported in September [2001] that the former president, the father of President Bush, worked for the bin Laden family business

in Saudi Arabia through the Carlyle Group. The senior Bush had met with the bin Laden family at least twice. (Other top Republicans are also associated with the Carlyle group, such as former Secretary of State James A. Baker.) The terrorist leader Osama bin Laden had supposedly been "disowned" by his family, which runs a multi-billion dollar business in Saudi Arabia and was a major investor in the senior Bush's firm. Other reports have questioned whether members of his Saudi family have truly cut off Osama bin Laden. Osama's sister-in-law, in a recent interview with ABC News, said that she believed that members of her family still supported bin Laden." see http://www.judicialwatch.org/archive/2001/printer_1082.shtml

If you do the most rudimentary search of the internet, you come up with many reasons NOT TO WANT THIS COMPANY IN CONTROL OF HAWAII'S PRIMARY MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS!

If you do a google search for "Carlyle Group" AND Telecommunications (<http://www.google.com/search?sourceid=navclient&ie=UTF-8&q=%22Carlyle+Group%22+AND+Telecommunications>) you will see that they are actively in pursuit of a worldwide telecommunications empire, which to me conjures up disturbing images of Rupert Murdoch's outrageous propaganda machine.

The Carlyle Group's acquisitions of telecommunications and media companies throughout the world (see for example <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A58968-2004Jun21.html>) pose the threat of giving them control of not only how we communicate with each other but also what news and information we are able to obtain or propagandized by. Giving any entity this much power is not healthy for democracy, especially when the principals in the company have a distinctly one sided political / economic agenda. In The Carlyle Group's case, the hallmark of that agenda is concentrating enormous wealth at the top by "offshoring" jobs, busting unions and perpetuating a real or imagined unwinnable "war on terror" (They also have immense defense industry holdings). Control of information by the government-media complex has enable them to convince much of the public of fictions like

- * Giving tax cuts to the rich creates jobs and a strong economy -- despite the fact that there are fewer jobs
- * There really is such a thing as a "jobless recovery" and there's no need to ask, "who the hell is the recovery for, the rich people who don't need to work?"
- * Revoking the Medicare Administration's ability to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies for volume discounts is good for Medicare recipients
- * Relinquishing our national forests to the logging and mining industries creates "Healthy Forests"
- * Relaxing emissions regulations on power plants creates "Clear Skies"
- * Cutting funds for education will result in 'No child left behind',
- * Refusing to work with other nations to combat global warming is good for the environment.
- * Unilaterally withdrawing from anti-missile treaties makes us more secure
- * The terrorists who perpetrated 9/11 had nothing to do with Saudi Arabia even though 14 of the 19 hijackers were citizens of Saudi Arabia.
- * There was no need for the FBI to question members of the Saudi Royal Family or the Bin

Laden Family living in the U.S. prior to whisking them out of the country on private jets on 9/13

- * Iraq is the center of terrorism aimed at the United States, even though Osama bin Laden and his training camps were (are) in Afghanistan

- * Sitting in a kindergarten classroom for 7 full minutes (looking like a rabbit frozen in the headlights of an oncoming car) after being told by an aide that "the nation is under attack" exemplifies decisive leadership. Commanding a swiftboat in Vietnam, rescuing comrades under enemy fire does not.

- * Failure is success

- * Disaster is achievement

These are the things accepted as true, thanks to the control of our media and communications by entities such as the Carlyle Group. Some day, if you don't do your job now, I might not be able to send this email.

If you are willing to see the big picture, hideous though it may be, if you believe your responsibility is to do what is best for ALL the people of Hawaii, not the rich and powerful elite, you will not allow this sale to go through. Whether or not it will make any difference is not the point. The point is that this is where YOU can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Jake Jacobs (Verizon monopoly customer)

Kailua-Kona, HI